

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-33. Applicant has added new claims 34-37. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-37.

The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 17, and 24. Applicant has amended claims 9, 17, and 24. Applicant submits claims 9, 17, and 24 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Soirinsuo et al. (US Patent No. 6,146,001) in view of Benson et al. (US Patent No. 6,026,090). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claims 1, 10, 17 and 25, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited references fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 1, 10, 17, and 25. As one example, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited references fail to disclose or suggest "generating a data stream for the merged virtual connection based on the prioritization information and virtual connection identities stored in the queue, wherein the merged virtual connection is identified by a merged identifier, wherein each unit of data in the data stream includes the merged identifier." As another example, "Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited references fail to disclose or suggest "a merging system controller operably coupled to the plurality of buffers, the queuing block, and the prioritization block, wherein the merging system controller dequeues data from the plurality of buffers based on the prioritization information and the identities stored in the queuing block to produce a data stream corresponding to a merged virtual connection, wherein data are dequeued from the plurality of buffers by the merging system controller such that data from a packet are included in a continuous portion of the data stream for the merged virtual connection, wherein data included in the data stream for the merged virtual connection include an identifier corresponding to the merged virtual connection." As yet another example, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited references fail to disclose or suggest "generating a data stream for the merged virtual connection based on the prioritization information and virtual connection identities stored in the queue, wherein the merged virtual connection is identified by a merged identifier, wherein each unit of data in the data stream includes the merged identifier, wherein dequeuing of data is performed in intervals, where different classes receive priority for different ones of the intervals."

While the Examiner cites "(e.g., see VPI/VCI Translation 934 in FIG. 9)" as allegedly disclosing "generating a cell stream for the merged virtual connection based on the prioritization information and virtual connection identities, wherein the merged virtual connection is identified by a merged virtual connection identifier," Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 1, 10, 17, and 25. While the Examiner has cited, "(e.g., based on priorities and VCC, see col. 7, line 1 – col. 8, line 41)," Applicant submits such portion of the cited reference fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 1, 10, 17, and 25. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 1, 10, 17 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 2, 14, 18, and 26, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 2, 14, 18, and 26. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 2, 14, 18, and 26 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 2, 14, 18, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 3, 11, 13, 19, and 27, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 3, 11, 13, 19, and 27. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 3, 11, 13, 19, and 27 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 2, 14, 18, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 4, 12, 20 and 28, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 4, 12, 20, and 28. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 4, 12, 20, and 28 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 5, 21 and 29, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 5, 21, and 29. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 5, 21, and 29 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 5, 21 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 6, 22 and 30, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 6, 22, and 30. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 6, 22, and 30 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 6, 22 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 7, 23 and 31, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 7, 23, and 31. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 7, 23, and 31 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 7, 23 and 31 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 8, 24 and 32, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 8, 24, and 32. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 8, 24, and 32 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 8, 24 and 32 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 9 and 33, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 9 and 33. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 9 and 33 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 9 and 33 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Applicant submits the cited portions of the cited reference fail to disclose the subject matter of claims 15 and 16. Applicant has presented arguments for the allowability of claims from which claims 15 and 16 depend. Therefore, Applicant submits claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added new claims 34-37. Applicant submits new claims 34-37 are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



Ross D. Snyder, Reg. No. 37,730
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ross D. Snyder & Associates, Inc.
PO Box 164075
Austin, Texas 78716-4075
(512) 347-9223 (phone)
(512) 347-9224 (fax)